

# SPEAKERS' HANDBOOK

*of*

## American Committee for Relief in the Near East

Headquarters  
ONE MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

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## TO YOU

America avowedly entered the war to fight for national and international democracy and the rights of little nations. The war has been won on the battlefield, but Victory comes to-day not with the irresponsible gaiety of the childhood of the race, but with the grave responsibility of maturity, eyes of purpose and hands of construction to build a better world. There is not an individual among us who does not share this responsibility and this purpose. The question with the rank and file of Americans is simply—where to begin?

The whole world, beyond our borders, seems broken, bleeding and in need.

Yet there is nowhere that the trail of war has more shatteringly passed, nor over a more innocent non-combatant population, than in the Near East. Massacre we have seen before, but it remained for 1915 to show us the more refined horrors of deportation, when the Turks drove out of their territory nearly 3,000,000 peaceable non-Moslem inhabitants, Armenians, Greeks, and others, many of whose ancestry had dwelt in the land as far back as history records. The need of these deported innocent people of the Near East, in a time of almost universal need, is overwhelmingly greater than that of any other people in the world. They are more widely scattered and hopelessly destitute. A whole nation is utterly dependent upon the mercy of strangers. Tens of thousands have died. The survivors have reached precarious safety in lands where starvation was already following on the heels of war, and where the hosts could only share famine with their guests.

Great Britain is doing her share to help them, but it is to America, least of all sufferers of the war, that they chiefly look for aid. They need the actual means of life, they need a chance to start life anew, and they need rehabilitation in the homes from which they have wrongfully and cruelly been driven.

This booklet is planned to present the main facts in an easily available form for the use of those speakers, both experienced and inexperienced, whose sympathy with the work and purposes of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East urges them to place these facts before the American public in the effort to collect the \$30,000,000 which is the necessary minimum for the rescue and reconstruction of these little martyr nations.

Already in the Near East the flag of the Stars and Stripes is the symbol of liberty and friendship. Let us lift it higher yet, let us show the Land of the Almighty Dollar as the land of great givers, the leader in practice as well as in ideals in the new esprit de corps among nations which knows that if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it.

Here is a part of our task of laying the foundations of a new world. Let us lay them generously, not niggardly in effort or design, and may every man, woman and child in America share to the utmost in the work.

17 cents keeps a destitute Armenian child for a day.

\$5.00 keeps one for a month.

\$60.00 keeps one for a year.

\$30,000,000 will restart the little nations of the Near East in a resumption of national life.

## PRESIDENT WILSON'S APPEAL

For more than three years American philanthropy has been a large factor in keeping alive Armenian, Syrian, Greek and other exiles and refugees of Western Asia.

On two former occasions I have appealed to the American people on behalf of these homeless sufferers, whom the vicissitudes of war and massacre had brought to the extremest need.

The response has been most generous, but now the period of rehabilitation is at hand. Vastly larger sums will be required to restore these once prosperous, but now impoverished, refugees to their former homes than were required merely to sustain life in their desert exile.

It is estimated that about 4,000,000 Armenian, Syrian, Greek and other war sufferers in the Near East will require outside help to sustain them through the winter. Many of them are now hundreds of miles from their homeland. The vast majority of them are helpless women and children, including 400,000 orphans.

The American Committee for Relief in the Near East is appealing for a minimum of \$30,000,000 to be subscribed January 12-19, 1919, with which to meet the most urgent needs of these people.

I, therefore, again call upon the people of the United States to make even more generous contributions than they have made heretofore to sustain through the winter months those who, through no fault of their own, have been left in a starving, shelterless condition, and to help reestablish these ancient and sorely oppressed people in their former homes on a self-supporting basis.

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
29 November, 1918.

## SPEAKERS' COOPERATION

### I. Keeping in touch with Speakers' Bureaus.

a—The National Speakers' Bureau has four divisions with offices as follows:

Eastern: Mr. John H. Cover, 1 Madison avenue, New York.

Central: Mr. Alonzo E. Wilson, 106 North La Salle street, Chicago, Illinois.

Mountain: Mr. Wilbur F. Deniows, 1700 Stout street, Denver.

Western: Speakers' Bureau, 333 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

In addition each state, county and city will have its Bureau.

b—Many organizations such as the Red Cross, State Councils of Defence, Chambers of Commerce, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Knights of Columbus and Jewish organizations, are cooperating with us. The speaker should bear this in mind, availing himself of the opportunity of their assistance.

c—A detailed record of every meeting scheduled or completed, with the name of the chairman, should be forwarded to the local, state or national office. Cards for this purpose are supplied by the Speakers' Bureaus.

d—The speaker should be sure to keep himself supplied with pamphlets for distribution and especially with pledge cards and pencils. He can also obtain from the local Speakers' Bureau:

1. Lantern slides with a prepared lecture to accompany them.

2. Posters and printed material.

## II. The appeal for funds.

Great importance attaches to the method used in the appeal. Ushers should be supplied pledge cards and pencils before the meeting begins, and instructed as to their distribution, to be made at a definite cue from the speaker near the end of the address. The collection of cash contributions and pledges should take place immediately after the appeal is made in its final and most emphatic form by the speaker himself or by some one whom he has previously asked to make it.

\$30,000,000 is the least that can be asked for to meet adequately the most pressing demands of the dependent peoples of the Near East. More could be used, but \$30,000,000 we must have.

## FACTS ABOUT THE NEED

Carefully prepared estimates based on reports that have come to the American Committee for Relief in the Near East from every part where work is carried on, through workers on the field, returned Ambassadors, Consuls, Missionaries, business men, teachers, statements received through the Swedish Legation, and careful examination of the files of the State Department make it clear that at least 3,950,000 people in the Near East are destitute refugees.

At the present time the Red Cross has taken over responsibility for a large part of Syria and Palestine, thus reducing the number of the extremely destitute depending immediately upon this Committee by 1,050,000. This leaves absolutely dependent upon the work of the relief measures for the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, a total of 2,900,000 souls all accessible, all in desperate need. Of this number, the best estimate obtainable indicates 400,000 orphans without fathers, but some with living mothers with no means of support.

The same estimate based upon the most reliable information obtainable from Consular and relief agents' reports, show that 1,770,000 of these destitute sufferers are away from their homes, having been driven out by the authorities, many of whom are in Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria, the Caucasus and Siberia, while there are large numbers who have been sent to remote districts within the Turkish Empire.

### ESTIMATE BASED ON FACTS

It is difficult to estimate the actual cost of repatriating and reestablishing these people and of supplying their immediate needs for food and clothing until they can be reestab-

lished and put upon a self-supporting basis. We submit the following, however, as the lowest possible estimate based upon the most accurate obtainable figures.

2,900,000 needy and accessible people, of whom a large proportion will be dependent upon aid from without for six months at least. We estimate \$5.00 per capita for the six months as the lowest figure possible, making a total of..	\$14,500,000
1,770,000 exiles and refugees to be repatriated, some of them to be carried a thousand miles to their homes. Giving an average of 400 miles per person, estimated cost \$3.00 per capita..	5,310,000
400,000 orphans included among the above refugees to be provided with orphan homes at their destinations. Estimated cost \$10.00 per capita for the creation of the home.....	4,000,000
Seeds for sowing, farm tractors, implements and tools, cattle, sheep, motor trucks, autos, etc., to set up these people after they return upon land with facilities for cultivation.....	2,500,000
Providing of houses for 1,770,000 returning refugees which so far as reports show have been largely destroyed or rendered uninhabitable without extensive repairs, estimated that 50,000 houses will be required at a cost of average of \$50.00 each.....	2,500,000
Clothing for at least 2,900,000 needy, including the orphan children, and bedding, of which they are mostly destitute, at an average of \$4.00 per person .....	8,000,000
<hr/>	
Total required to cover period of six months.	\$36,810,000

MUST BE OVERSUBSCRIBED

In making the above statement public, the Committee, through its secretary, C. V. Vickrey, stated:

"Our Committee on Estimates has been laboring night and day for weeks trying to bring our estimates of needs within the compass of our prospective receipts. The first budget prepared, which the Committee thought to be the minimum of requirements, amounted to \$118,500,000, and even this did not include all of the real needs.

"At the conference in New York, September 19-20, a further drastic reduction of the budget to \$56,100,000 was made. Recognizing, however, that the sum of \$30,000,000 had already been announced as the financial goal of the Committee for the present year, and that a great many war chests and other local committees had made their plans on the basis of \$30,000,000 the Committee was requested to make further reductions in the budget, which they have done, with the present total of \$36,800,000.

"We of course, cannot meet the need even as outlined in this reduced budget on a \$30,000,000 basis, and are earnestly hoping for oversubscriptions that will provide for the additional need. If over-subscriptions are not given to us it means that some of the destitute people must continue to suffer while we help as many as possible with the resources placed at our command.'

## FACTS ABOUT THE WORK

The work being done can be grouped under four divisions:

- Immediate Relief
- Medical Work
- Orphanages
- Industrial Work

Of these the most valuable from the point of view of the future is the last, and as soon as immediate relief has been administered it is the desire of the Committee to establish industrial centres at all places where refugees are congregated, not only for the new zest in life imparted by work to broken and weary spirits and bodies, but also for the revival of natural economic conditions in war-paralyzed districts.

### IMMEDIATE RELIEF

Some idea of the meaning of immediate relief may be gained from the following excerpts from recent reports:

“Cairo, Egypt, May 3, 1918.

“I wish you could have seen the hundred and fifty odd new refugees who filed wearily into the Armenian camp at Port Said a week ago last Saturday. \* \* \* They were mostly women and children, the weariest, illest, raggedest, dirtiest set of people I had ever seen. They did exactly as they were told, for it seemed they had no spirit left to do otherwise. About fifteen were taken right into the hospital including one fifteen days old baby. As one watched these people one thought of the thousands who have not been able to reach such a refuge, but have fallen by the wayside, too weak to go further. As soon as the doctor had made a rapid examination of them all in quarantine, they were ordered

out, and grouped according to families, while three of us took down their names, ages, and family relationships. \* \* \* All of them had been driven out of their homes three years ago, and have been wandering and living with the Arabs south of the Dead Sea ever since.

"On Tuesday as soon as the clothes had been made ready, they all came in groups of ten, took off their old clothes in Tent 1, got into hospital garments, went into a hot bath, came out to Tent 2, where they got two complete sets of new clothes, and went into Tent 3, to dress. The heads were all examined and those that needed it were shaved. \* \* \* All old clothes were afterwards burned up, as they were incredibly ragged and dirty. That night I heard that they had never even seen soap since they had left their homes. When school opens on Thursday there will be special classes for these 60 new children of school age. \* \* \* Fortunately there is a new school building just being finished, so there will be two tents available for these new classes."

#### REFUGEES IN JERUSALEM

"Jerusalem, April 5, 1918.

"The past week has been a period of intense interest and unusual pressure in our relief work, for more than 5,000 refugees have arrived from the towns and villages east of the Jordan. Early Easter morning we received notification that 1,500 Armenians were on their way; so I started off for Jericho with a government officer and a truck load of rations. \* \* \* By evening 210 Armenian exiles had arrived, on foot, weary and hungry, but glad to be in the Promised Land of British rule. Their 'Passover' was celebrated that Easter night in a large ruined inn in Jericho, and their Passover bread was army biscuits. Early the next morning many others began to arrive. After the morning distribu-

tion of rations, we arranged for all of the refugees to ride from Jericho to Jerusalem in army motor trucks. I wish you could have seen their faces when I explained to them that they were to be given a ride all the way up the hills to Jerusalem.

"On Monday morning 1,300 more arrived in Jericho. The rations at Jericho and the ride in the motor trucks to Jerusalem were the first acts of kindness which they had met with in three years.

"Great numbers of Syrian refugees, both Christians and Moslems, are now arriving in Jerusalem. We are working night and day to provide shelter and food for them.\* \* \* We need additional appropriation of at least \$25,000 per month to care for these streams of homeless people suddenly brought in upon us."

#### MEDICAL WORK

Outbreaks of dysentery, typhoid, typhus, and cholera follow closely on the heels of starvation and the eating of putrid flesh, raw grain and offal. Without medical treatment and large supplies of medical necessities, terrible epidemics will inevitably break out in all the districts where refugees are congregated. As it is, disease is rife, and twenty of our own workers and missionaries have succumbed to infection, overwork and under-nourishment. Hospitals and dispensaries are being established as quickly as possible, and a large amount of out-patient work is being done. Medical supplies have been sent in large quantities to infected areas, and more will be sent. Large and increasing funds are needed.

#### ORPHANAGES

Not only have the 400,000 orphan children among the refugees to be cared for, but orphanages in the Caucasus

and in Palestine have had to be saved from collapse under the overwhelming pressure of high prices and food scarcity, or their present inmates would perforce be turned out to swell the already vast numbers of starving little ones.

In Aleppo, over 1,200 orphans are under care. In the Russian Caucasus, some 10,000 children already in Russian orphanages, and at least 3,000 more refugees are being cared for by the American Committee.

10,000 children are now being supported at relief centers —being fed, educated, and taught trades.

This work is most urgent. In these children lies the hope of Armenia and Syria, Persia and Asia Minor. They are the raw material of the future.

#### INDUSTRIAL WORK

This is in many ways the most important branch of our work for the refugees, weakened and tormented as they are in soul as in body.

First, it is the only hope of continuing to supply to these people the means of subsistence. The importation of food and clothing to an idle people cannot, of course, be a permanent arrangement.

Second, it is all that makes life worth living to those whose home, friends, and occupation have been swept away.

The eagerness of the response among the Armenians to this kind of work is attested by Dr. F. W. MacCallum, who has been carrying on rehabilitation work at Van. He says:

“The thing that impressed us most was the industry and enterprise of the people themselves. It will not be necessary to do everything for them. All they need is a little help in getting started.”

### *Refugees Eager to Work*

Extract from a letter of T. D. Heald: "A canal for carrying water for the sixteen miles from the Zanga river at Eriwan to the town of Etchmiadzin was made many years ago, but owing to faulty work the canal had never served. Large portions of the canal were leaky, and in course of time the banks in many places had broken away.

"The town authorities at Etchmiadzin when they heard that our refugee committee was considering undertaking the reconstruction work, immediately sent for the engineer who originally planned the work, and with our representatives surveyed the whole length to see what could be done. Great interest was taken locally in the proposed work, for the town of Etchmiadzin had always suffered for want of water, and the project of bringing this would not only serve the town for ordinary house uses, but also lay open the possibility of new expensive watering of barren desert land all around the town, and mean a considerable increase of the productive area.

"We started work with a gang of one hundred refugee men under the advice of the engineer at the beginning of March, but the work had to be abandoned, owing to the disorganization brought about by the approach of the Turkish army, and the impossibility of our receiving more money for our refugee work. There is no doubt that with the resumption of relief work as soon as the district can again be reached, this project will be continued. Nothing could be more useful to the local population.

"A result of this undertaking was an approach from the Caucasian railway authorities with a request that we would organize gangs of labor amongst the refugees and take control of the extension of the railway into the town of Eriwan from its present terminus about two miles outside. The rail-

road company would pay the wages, if we would do the organizing and take responsibility for the work. The Khurds and Tartars, however, destroyed the station next beyond Erivan, and cut the railway, so that nothing could be done."

### *Cotton Spinning and Weaving*

Extract from letter of Theodore A. Elmer: "Having arrived in Erivan I was told to go on to Etchmiadzin, and open new work in Ashdarag, a town lying 17 versts to the north. I had great difficulty in renting a house as the town was crowded, not only by refugees, but by soldiers and officers of the Armenian Army which was preparing to go to Erzroom. Cotton spinning and weaving had been begun in Etchmiadzin by Mr. Gracey for the refugees before he left to become a Captain in the British Army. This work I took over and extended it. When I left we had 40 looms weaving cotton cloth which was used for making under-clothing for the orphans. Seven hundred women were employed in spinning the cotton yarn for these looms besides a great many others who wound bobbins and prepared the yarn for the looms. Forty then worked the looms. Practically every person employed supported an entire family of refugees.

"\* \* \* The Monastery authorities, seeing the success of our cotton shop, asked me to take over their wool shop, which they were utterly unable to make go. I paid their debts to 1,000 refugee women who had spun wool for them for two months without pay, and took over the whole business. The Catholikos gave me two large rooms in the old refectory of the monastery close beside the Cathedral in which to carry on this work. My greatest difficulty was to find trustworthy men to oversee this work. Here we employed 1,500 women preparing and spinning woolen yarn

which was woven into cloth for the purpose of clothing the orphan children. No cloth could be bought in Etchmiadzin for any price. After getting these two industries under way, I started a similar industry in the town of Ashdarag. Here we also employed the labor of refugee men in building roads and improving the grounds of an ancient church."

## EXPEDITION TO TURKEY

A large expedition is about to set out for Turkey, under the auspices of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, for investigation, relief, and reconstruction work. A small commission of prominent Americans will accompany the expedition, under the leadership of Dr. Barton.

Members of the expedition will include doctors, nurses, sanitary engineers, teachers, agriculturists, expert mechanics, chauffeurs and orphanage superintendents. The cargo will consist of canned food and condensed milk, medicine and serum, hospital equipment, farm tractors, motor lorries, clothing, tools and other necessaries.

A transport has been furnished by the government to convey this expedition to Turkey.

Lectures on the character and habits of the various people to be dealt with, lessons on the language, and other courses will be given on board. The ship will be a floating college, training school and conference on its three weeks' voyage.

## TESTIMONY OF EYE WITNESSES SUFFERING CHILDREN AT ALEPPO

A German eye-witness, Dr. Martin Niepage, gave the following account to the German Reichstag:

"Opposite the German Technical School at Aleppo, in which we are engaged in teaching, a mass of about four hundred emaciated forms, the remnant of such convoys, is lying in one of the hans. There are about a hundred children (boys and girls) among them, from five to seven years old. Most of them are suffering from typhoid and dysentery. When one enters the yard, one has the impression of entering a mad-house. If one brings them food, one notices that they have forgotten how to eat. Their stomachs, weakened by months of starvation, can no longer assimilate nourishment. If one gives them bread, they put it aside indifferently. They just lie there quietly, waiting for death. Amid such surroundings, how are we teachers to read German Fairy Stories with our children, or, indeed, the story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible? How are we to make them decline and conjugate irrelevant words, while around them in the yards adjoining the German Technical School their starving fellow-countrymen are slowly succumbing? Under such circumstances our educational work flies in the face of all true morality and becomes a mockery of human sympathy."

What are the facts that produced these results? Immediately after the declaration of war, the Turkish government drafted all the able-bodied men into the army. This depleted the ranks of the farmers, manufacturers and other wage earners and put an end to the wealth producing class of the country. The second step was to commandeer all crops and means of transportation for the use of the army. Under the requisitioning laws all drugs and medical supplies

were exhausted, and as a result, disease, including typhus, typhoid and cholera became rampant and worked havoc among a poorly clad, half-famished population. The third step was to single out some of the leading families and most progressive individuals and hang them or deport them because of their pro-Arab or pro-French sympathies.

Thus Syria, which gave the world its Christ, its Bible and its religious literature, is bleeding to death; and the Syrians, the descendants of the Phoenicians, who disseminated the alphabet, and of the Arabs who in the Middle Ages were the only bearers of the torch of civilization, are threatened with extinction.

Quoted from World Court Magazine, Oct., 1918.

#### IN AN ORPHANAGE OUTSIDE JAFFA

Just outside the town is a large square building, before the war used as a Greek Orthodox School, but now the home of 240 small Syrian girls and boys, of ages varying from 3 to 10. At first sight, the building looks somewhat dilapidated, but that is owing to war conditions and the natural scarcity of paint, glass, and such things generally. The sombre appearance of the place, however, is soon forgotten in the presence of the bright, capable, English lady in charge of these stray mites. Very bright some of them are now, yet many still bear traces of the awful suffering they have undergone. This was notably the case with one small child who lay in a dazed condition in a temporized cot, clutching in his hand a piece of bread. The father is "with the Turks," the mother died of starvation, the child was brought in in a dying condition, and is now slowly recovering, and the only words he has yet said are "bread" and "milk," and he just lies with a crust as tightly clasped as his weak little hands will allow. In the same room, almost bare except for these

cots, were several other small children in various stages of recovery from ailments, chiefly caused through lack of food, and general privation.

The school apparatus is practically nil, even slates are unobtainable; so lessons have to be of a primitive kind, and are given by some devoted Syrian helpers. A very varied diet is not possible, but in comparison with the starvation of the last three years it is most ample. Rice, served with vegetables, and periodically with meat, is, of course, the principal dish for those well enough for ordinary food. The sick ones depend on condensed milk and other light food supplied by the relief fund. Industrial work, immediate relief and medical work, including hospital, are also being conducted at Jaffa.

#### THE STORY OF SEEMA

Seema had been a pretty little girl, all round curves and dimples, with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. She had been dressed richly in broadcloths and silks with strings of gold coins around her neck and bracelets on her arms, the petted daughter of a wealthy Armenian merchant. But she was a pitiful little creature now, ragged, thin and pale, cringing and afraid. For three years she had known only fear and hunger, beating and abuse and bitter weariness. Father and brother had been killed, she and her mother and sisters had been driven out of their house and herded with other Armenians on the endless march of deportation. Her sisters and mother had died on the road. Little Seema Shushan had struggled on alone for the last few months, with other children and surviving refugees, until Bethlehem and help was reached. Seema had been six when she was driven from her home. She was nine now. For three weary years she had been wandering. Her condition when she reached the

American Relief Workers can best be described by the mere statement that in all that time she had never seen soap.

Think what this means, mothers and fathers of tenderly nurtured children. Now Seema is in the orphanage, but the best that we can give her is far less than what she has lost. And at present the bare necessities of life are all that can be afforded to any, and then many—even children—must be turned away because there is not enough to go around.

#### A COMMON CASE

An Armenian mother and three children, turning up on the doorstep of an American Relief Station in the Southern Caucasus. The woman a mere collection of rags and bones, with two great black eyes gazing out over the red fez which covered her face; three little children clinging to her skirts, and a sick skeleton of a baby in her arms.

Two years before the woman and her husband had possessed a small holding in a village beyond Erzingan, where they had lived and worked in peaceful content. When the war began, the little home was disrupted, the father was conscripted to work on the roads, and before long the wife and children were forced to join the deportation march with thousands of others. After the unspeakable sufferings of the journey this woman had succeeded in reaching Alexandropol, having lost only one child on the way.

There she is now on the list of employees in the wool or cotton spinning departments of our large refugee clothes making industry. This will enable her to make a home for her children and a comfortable living and maintain her self-respect, while the sick baby has gone on our infant-feeding list, and will receive a bottle a day of pasteurized milk.

Is not this work worth doing?

#### FROM A RELIEF WORKER IN SYRIA

Jamal Pasha was not in favor of the massacres which took place. There were no real massacres in his district. I think probably he did countenance the restricting of the food supplies for Syria. He thus had to sign the death warrants for all the Arabs, Moslems and Christians in Beirut.

We gave relief to about 15,000 in the mountains and Beirut District. The people bake their bread in loaves which weigh about one and a half pounds. Every individual gets a quarter of a loaf a day. Fifteen thousand people were receiving this ration. They had to make breakfast, dinner and supper of it. It was not much, but it kept them from starvation.

#### DEVOTION OF MISSIONARIES

(Extract from Ambassador Morgenthau)

"I wish to express my great admiration for the splendid work which our missionaries accomplished as ministering angels among their Armenian friends in their days of sore distress and trial. They carried their abnegation even so far as to desire to share their fate. One of the teachers accompanied her sixty girl pupils that were deported by the Turks. An Armenian who had heard of the incident said with tears of appreciation in his eyes: "That is what I call a saint in our days; she ought to be canonized by our church!"

#### CHILDREN EAT DEAD CAMEL

A crowd collected in the streets. One of our workers went up to investigate and found that a camel had died, and a swarm of children were pulling the raw flesh from the bones and devouring it.

#### SCRAMBLE FOR MELON RIND

A little incident illustrating the terrible hunger experienced by thousands is told by one of our returning consuls:

"I was eating a piece of melon," he said, "and paying little attention to the people around me. I tossed aside the rind, when instantly a man pounced upon it like a hungry wolf. He chewed on it for a few moments and then he in turn tossed it aside. Another man who had been watching him with the eyes of a hawk picked it up and devoured the rest."

#### THE LAST LAP

One day a small boy, painfully emaciated, his garments in tatters, arrived at a relief station dragging a little girl almost as large as himself. "Mother said take care of her," was all he could say. An hour later his brave spirit found rest. He had been deported from an Armenian village with his mother, a baby brother and a little sister. Before many days the baby died. Finally the weakened mother could go no further. The little boy had traveled thirty miles, carrying and dragging his little sister, and having given her the last of their food, was just able to leave her in safety before he died.

#### WOMAN ABANDONS CHILD

One of our church members in Teheran came running in a few days ago crying, "Oh! give me a little money. A woman has abandoned her child in the street, saying she cannot feed it, and another is holding on to her veil crying bitterly and saying, 'Oh! don't leave little sister; don't leave little sister.'" People are eating the heads and bodies of dead animals who have died of starvation. Now that the grain is springing up people are cutting and eating the green blades of the wheat and barley. Dysentery and all kinds of stomach troubles are the results.

Map showing  
Distressed Districts  
and Relief Stations  
supported  
by the American  
Committee for  
Relief in the Near  
East. The Places  
marked are  
Centers of Relief  
for the Surrounding  
Country Regions.





#### CHILDREN STARVING IN STREETS

"Whenever I go out I see men or women fallen on the street, dead or dying; little emaciated children stretching out their wasted hands, 'for just one shahie for bread,' tears running down their cheeks, or sitting propped against a wall, listless and torpid."

#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

"We are printing tickets for 'dampokt,' rice cooked with grease and meat, making a sort of thick stew which is sold for eight shahies a charak—a little more than one pound. The stew is sold in the city from ten or more centers and has been peddled about the streets by the people who buy it from the big centers. We bought about 4,000 tickets, and distribute them to those who must have food at once. Then the houses are visited and examined, the number of people in a family written down, tickets issued, and rice and money distributed. We are feeding more than 1,700 families; now since the receipt of your recent remittance we can reach four or five times that many and open new quarters."

#### UNBURIED DEAD LEFT IN STREETS

"People are dying in the streets. Mr. Scott said a man lay on the street near the English Legation just like a dead dog—no one seemed to care to see that he was buried, and this in a city of 350,000 people as some count the population of Teheran! One of our men went into a miserable room, dirt floor, no covering on it. A woman lay in one corner—no food, no fire, no covering but rags—on a tattered piece of matting about one and a half yards square. Beside her on this scrap of matting lay a tiny baby born the night before. Women are confined in the streets and in the public square.

Oh! there is no end to the terrible things that people have seen."

#### THE STARVING HELP EACH OTHER

"I was walking along the street a few days ago and saw a man lying supported on another man's knee. This man had stuffed some bits of bread into the fallen man's mouth, but the poor jaws did not move. The mouth remained half opened, the eyes glazed. The second man begged me for a little money with which to get a glass of hot tea, which perhaps the other man might drink. There is something so terribly, unspeakably intimate in it all. There is so much that is beautiful in the pathetic way that one poor starving creature will help another.

#### PEOPLE EATING BLOOD FROM SLAUGHTER HOUSES

"The other day in Hamadan when Mr. Edwards came home he found a man lying in the street in front of his gate exhausted from hunger and weakness. He had him brought into the kitchen, where they warmed him up and revived him with some soup and food. While they were busy with him his wife came along, her hands covered with blood. When asked for an explanation she said that she had gone to get a little bread but had not been able, so she had been over to the slaughter-house to get some blood to eat. The poor people even fight for the blood from the slaughter-houses."

#### THE TOLL OF FAMINE

The following extracts are from a letter written to the Committee by W. A. Shedd, from Urumia, Persia:

"\* \* \* But famine has taken the heaviest toll. In the course of three weeks we buried over a thousand bodies that had been left unburied in the city. Previously hundreds

had been buried, and some have been buried since. Of the thousand only about twenty had been killed by violence."

#### WIDOWS AND FATHERLESS

There are at least 400,000 orphan children among the refugees. The large majority of the adults are women, many of them widows who do not even know, in some cases, what has become of their husbands. They only know that they are almost certainly dead.

Last week we came into a house of which the occupants had not eaten anything for three days. The wife had a child in her arms and tried to give it a crumb of bread to eat. The child could not move; it groaned and died in her arms. In this very moment I came in with C.; he gave her a lira. The woman took it and cried, in tears: "Ah, if you had brought this only one day earlier, my child would have been still alive."

A family went to bed hungry; the child could not sleep and cried for bread. At last the Arabian owner of the house was moved with compassion and gave the little one a piece of bread. The child took it, was going to eat it, but then bethought himself, held it close to him and said: "If I eat it now I will be hungry again tomorrow," and with the feeling to have the bread near him, went off to sleep.

A mother threw herself into the Euphrates, after she had seen her child die of hunger; a father did the same. On account of the general dearth, the need increases very much. When one gives a few madjids, the people pay first their bread debts, have bread for a few days, and hunger presents itself again. Whenever and wherever there is any help, God will use it and us—no trouble will be too much for us.

The people live on what we are able to give them. The

people that we meet in the street hardly look like human beings; if one has money it is not necessary to look for the poor, you find them in crowds. Rich and poor do not exist any more. If one should go from door to door distributing gifts, one could be sure to have given nothing unnecessary. Children eagerly picking grains from the dung of animals in the street have become a common sight.

Seventeen cents will keep a child alive for a day. Five dollars keeps one person alive for a month. Sixty dollars keeps one person alive for a year.

#### STRIPPED IN THE WILDERNESS

Many of the refugees have been literally stripped in the wilderness. Children have outgrown their clothes in the three years of wandering. A boy of twelve came in to one of the American Committee's centres with only a little shirt on, not nearly big enough to cover him. Money to buy material for clothes, material, and needles and cotton and sewing machines, are constantly needed, that these brothers and sisters of ours may be clothed.

A scanty pittance of food, just enough to support life, is all that can be given to each one of those relieved, and even then there is not enough to go round. With \$30,000,000 we can, humanly speaking, save every life.

#### OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM

Quaint little creatures some of the orphans are. There are two small boys named respectively Pat and David, aged apparently about four years, who were picked up by a regiment of British soldiers in Palestine and carried along with them until a place of asylum was found. They salute in the most approved fashion, and are only just getting over their sorrow at parting from the men, to whom they owe their

lives. No one knows who they are. For months they were cared for by "Tommies" and were found wandering about, too small and too wretched to be able to tell any story even had their Arabic been understood by Tommy Atkins.

## CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLES WHO COME UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S CARE

Of the 3,950,000 destitute refugees in the Near East, the principal groups are the Armenians, Syrians, Greeks and Persians. They embrace all classes of society, from the humblest and most ignorant peasants, to skilled artisans, wealthy merchants and bankers, and well educated professional people who have been accustomed to all the refinements of life.

### THE ARMENIANS

Armenia, roughly speaking, consists of the table land extending from the Caspian to the Mediterranean Sea. Armenia is not a State, nor even a geographic unity, but is a general term for the regions where the Armenians live. It consists of Turkish, Russian and Persian Armenias with a total area of 133,289 square miles and an Armenian population of over 4,250,000 souls.

Viscount James Bryce thus speaks of the land:

"Here is a country blest with every gift of Nature; a fertile soil, possessing every variety of exposure and situation; a mild and equable climate; mines of iron, copper, silver, and coal in the mountains; a land of exquisite beauty, which was once studded with flourishing cities and filled by an industrious population.

"But now from the Euphrates to the Bosphorus all is silence, poverty, despair. There is hardly a sail on the sea, hardly a village on the shores, hardly a road by which com-

merce can pass into the interior. You ask the cause and receive from every one the same answer—misgovernment, or rather no government; the existence of a power which does nothing for its subjects, but stands in the way when there is a chance of their doing something for themselves. The mines, for instance, cannot be worked without a concession from Constantinople."

The Armenian inhabitants of Turkey are people of great industry, intelligence and aptitude for business, and their success in trade and in the liberal arts has been a valuable asset to the Turkish nation. The Turkish grammar, printing press and theatre owe their origin to Armenian initiative, and their financial ability made them the leading merchants of their country. The Turks have taken advantage of the massacres and deportations to repudiate their debts to Armenians, and to loot their houses and stores.

The special characteristics of Armenian women are sensitiveness, gentleness and refinement. They are artistic and have contributed much to literature and art. More devoted family relationships than exist among the Armenians are nowhere to be found, and this makes their present position agonizing in the extreme. Many thousands in Europe and America have received no tidings of their relatives in Turkey for over four years. They do not know whether their loved ones are killed, deported or dragging out a weary existence somewhere as refugees.

The Armenians have been Christians since the Fourth Century, and their national religion is said to be the oldest of the Christian State Churches. It is called "The Gregorian," after Gregory the Illuminator, its founder. The Armenian church differs little from the Greek church in creed, but, unlike the Greeks, the Armenians lay little stress on theological doctrines. They have always been, however,

devotedly trinitarian. The Armenians' loyalty to their church is not solely religious, but an expression of their strong national sentiment. Subjected to many forms of political misrule, and knowing no political independence or unity, they have sought unity in their church.

The part which the Armenians played in the world war has been fully dealt with by Ambassador Morgenthau. Many of the Russian Armenians, early in 1915, fought bravely with the Russian Armies against the Turks, and the Turkish Armenians, after discovering that they had nothing to hope for by aiding the so-called New Turk government, also became Pro-Ally in their sympathies. When the Turkish Armenians of Van, however, were conscripted into the Turkish army, they went for the most part without violent protest, until they found that this conscription was really a method of gaining control of the male population, disarming them, making them practically beasts of burden and pack animals for the Turkish army, and thus rendering the Armenians less able to combat against the wholesale massacres and deportations which were to follow. When the cold-blooded measures were eventually carried into effect to exterminate all the Christians in Turkey, one million men, women and children were shot, hung, starved and tortured.

#### THE SYRIANS

The Syrians, inhabitants of Palestine, are a mixed Semitic race, descended from the Phoenicians and Aramaeans of Bible times, and including also Arab ancestry. Massacre and deportation have not flung their gaunt shadows across Palestine, but the spectre of Famine has stalked broadcast through the land, claiming its victims by the hundred. Destruction of crops, failure of transportation of supplies, uncertainty of government in the face of the advancing

British army have united to invite the presence of this most subtle of War's handmaidens.

The Jews have shared this suffering, added to as it has been incalculably by influx of thousands of refugees from the interior of the Ottoman Empire, seeking safety behind the British lines. The Jews in America are sharing the responsibility of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East for the brethren in the Promised Land.

New fields for aid were opened up here by the advance of General Allenby's army and the subsequent surrender of Turkey, and the Red Cross Armenian-Syrian Relief Commission augmented by the American colony in Jerusalem and the English-Syrian Palestine Relief Committee are now providing emergency relief to the most destitute, and are beginning to provide work for the women and orphanages for the children. America must give further aid, if this work is to be continued adequately.

#### GREEKS

The story of Armenian suffering in Turkey is paralleled, with certain modifications by the experiences of the Greeks, of whom there were 5,000,000 under Turkish domination at the beginning of the war.

The Greeks had built up a sound prosperity and had established many kinds of successful business enterprises and educational institutions. The war brought to them the seizure of their property, the drafting of their men for the hardest kind of military tasks, and subsequent persecution and deportation.

The Turks adopted almost identically the same procedure against the Greeks, says Ambassador Morgenthau, as that which they had adopted against the Armenians. They began by incorporating the Greeks into the Ottoman army,

and then transforming them into labor battalions. These Greek soldiers, just like the Armenians, died by thousands from cold, hunger and other privations. The same house-to-house searches for hidden weapons took place in the Greek villages, and the Greek men and women were beaten and tortured just as were their fellow Armenians. Greek girls were stolen and taken to Turkish harems and Greek boys were kidnapped and placed in Moslem households. The Turks used the desire of the Greeks for independence as an excuse for a violent onslaught on the whole race. Everywhere the Greeks were gathered together in groups, and under the so-called protection of Turkish gendarmes, they were transported, the larger part on foot, into the interior. Just how many were scattered in this fashion is not known, the estimates of the number who have become destitute refugees varying anywhere from 200,000 up to 1,000,000.

A letter from Mr. Macrides, a Greek refugee escaped to New York, describes their plight as follows:

"Deportation in Asia Minor is a euphemism for the most heartless and relentless cruelty. It means the loss of home, business property and every personal possession. It means being driven into the desert places, forced to march at the point of the bayonet until strength is exhausted; being refused shelter, food and drink; subject to outrage and calculated cruelty; facing always, death by violence or from the cumulative effect of exposure, sickness and starvation. The people are herded and goaded like animals. The desperate refugees subsist chiefly on offal; graze like cattle on the roots of scanty grass tufts that push their dry and dusty stems above the sandy soil. It is impossible for words to give an adequate idea of the tragedy of bare existence under such awful conditions. Many dropped by the roadside, to

die where they fell. Others that I know of went insane. And that was only at the beginning. They are still marching on."

#### THE PERSIANS

The Turkish and Russian armies both fought in Persian territory, the latter having surged back and forth across it six times before the war ended. Under these conditions it has been almost impossible to cultivate the crops. The massacre of Christians and the flight of the survivors into Russia deprived Persia of thousands of the agricultural population.

These facts have reduced the country to a state of famine, the accounts of which surpass in horror anything in history since the Roman siege of Jerusalem.

To-day, representatives of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East are to be found in all the principal cities of Persia, helping the inhabitants to earn their daily bread.

The following extracts from letters and cablegrams describe the conditions with which the relief work has to cope:

"August 1, 1918.

"Forty thousand Christian refugees from Urumia have passed Byar en route Hamadan and are followed by 40,000 more is the report. Epidemics and hunger cause many deaths. Turks give up pursuit but rear parties have been robbed of everything." . . . "15,000 are said to have been massacred or died en route. British organizing refugee camps, hospitals, but our assistance required immediately."

From Mr. Cauldwell, American Minister, Teheran, October: "Influenza is spreading rapidly and the retail price of a pound of quinine is \$125.00. The American Relief Commission has an enormous supply of medicine which is very much needed, together with a stock of cotton, cotton cloth-

ing for the poor, two motors, Ford trucks, etc. The British military forces have requested that headquarters be established in Mesopotamia at Bakubah district persons not of military age and women are being maintained, reported from 30,000 to 70,000; those of military age being pressed into service.

"In order to care for the poor and the refugees in Teheran and in other parts of Persia, it can be seen from the foregoing that additional funds and help will still be necessary. It has been reported that about 15,000 Armenian refugees have come from Baku to Resht. There are prospects of them returning.

"Without further assistance the American missionaries and Legation staff will be unable to carry on the work during the winter, as three of the American missionaries died as result of hard work."

"June: "We have been oh! so busy with relief work all these months. . . . Thousands of dollars are being distributed every week. For the past two weeks conditions have been terrible. People crazed with hunger, refusing food to their own children—driving the children out to the street to beg for food or money. The poor little skeletons wander about, many of them too little to beg. . . . A woman killed and ate her own child. When outraged people called her to account she replied: 'It was my own child, not another's.' People in eating human flesh appear to have forgotten everything—have lost human consciousness—have even forgotten their names."

"We cannot buy sugar, it is more than a dollar and a quarter a pound."

"People are in such terrible need that they take the beams and joists out of their houses and sell them—literally destroying their houses. Then they go live under the trees

or in corners of the streets. Clothes, furniture, pots, carpets, anything that will bring a little money the people sell or pawn. Mothers sell their daughters."

"The food situation is desperate here now, and with it has come the inevitable sickness and death. . . . I sincerely hope our cablegrams will wake things up back there in the States."

"There are thousands of Kurdish and Urumia Syrian and Armenian refugees here, and the Relief Committee with funds from America are trying to keep them from starving and freezing to death. I have been busy since fall superintending quilt making, sewing clothing, and am now looking after sewing of cloth for orphans. Mr. Richards is having the clothes made on hand looms for refugees, from wool which has to be prepared first for thread. We get it just as it comes from the sheep's back."

The latest reports from Persia throw much light on national conditions and the kind of reconstruction that is needed there.

The poverty of the native population, as well as of the refugees among their borders, is great, and is at least partly due to the exceedingly high price of food. For this there are two reasons—the hoarding of wheat on the part of wealthy land-owners to force up the price, and the extreme difficulty of transportation.

There are no railways, and pack-animals have died in large numbers of insufficient food.

The British army in Persia has been of invaluable help in relief work, aiding in transport, donation of clothing and food, and in the maintenance of order. The Armenian refugees, when provided with ploughs and seed, will be of service to their Persian hosts by showing them better and more efficient methods of farming.

The future needs of Persia are, above all:

1. A good transportation system.
2. An improved land-system.

American prestige in Persia is at present very great, and likely to increase under the influence of the Commission to Persia recently sent out by the American Committee for Relief in the Near East.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, president of the University of Chicago, is at the head of this Commission, and Dr. Wilbur M. Post, who was War Field Secretary for the American Red Cross for Western Asia Union during the Balkan War 1912-13, is also a member of it. This commission is taking Ford cars and transport trucks, seeds for planting, sewing machines and medical supplies, and is setting to work in a thoroughly efficient manner to deal with the present situation and begin reconstruction for the future.

Large and increasing funds are needed.

#### NO GOVERNMENT AID AVAILABLE

We are able to show the new spirit of internationalism as a nation by making government loans of millions of dollars to Belgium, France, Serbia and other allied nations to help support their war orphans and war-stricken civilian population. But there is at present no government to which loans can be made for use on behalf of the millions of homeless destitutes in the Near East.

Our task here, therefore, is not merely supplementing government grants, but bearing for a time the whole responsibility. It affords a unique opportunity for every man, woman and child to express individually the spirit of internationalism and democracy that has inspired the war-aims of America and the speeches of President Wilson. It gives

us all a chance to help in the making of nations, and the literal and direct saving of life.

As soon as order is restored in the Near East, an effort will be made to provide proper government assistance to these unfortunate peoples who have suffered so bitterly in the war because of their pro-ally sympathies. But in the meantime the situation must be met by the whole-hearted individual support of the democracy of America.

### HOW SOME GIVE

The following is an extract from a typical letter received by the Committee from a minister and his wife:

"Though financially limited ourselves, receiving a salary of but \$60 per month as pastor of churches, we have decided to give one-half of this amount monthly for six months to relieve Armenian suffering and destitution, desiring the consolation only of Him who centuries ago in those lands said: 'I was hungry and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me.'"

(Reprinted from "The Work of the American Red Cross")

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF RED CROSS WAR FUND, MARCH 1, 1918

#### I. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

"The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief\* was organized in October, 1915, for the purpose of securing immediate relief for Armenians and Syrians, cabled reports of whose persecutions were at that time just begin-

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\* Now the American Committee for Relief in the Near East.

ning to reach this country. Since October 1, 1915, it has received from all sources and distributed for relief approximately \$9,000,000.

"The entire administrative expenses of this Committee are met privately, enabling it to devote to distinctly relief work 100 cents of every dollar received for this purpose. The work of distribution in Asia is handled by 100 or more responsible American citizens, consuls, physicians, educators and others who give their services to relief administration without salary or expense to the relief funds. The Committee's audited reports show that some \$25,000 more has been spent for relief than has been received in contributions, the difference being accounted for by the interest on daily balances. \* \* \* \* \*

"As an instance of the business-like methods employed, it was reported late in the fall of 1917 that food prices were rapidly advancing in Turkey, Armenia, Syria and the Caucasus, and that by the time winter came food would, in all probability, be cornered to such an extent that prices would be much higher than at the time of writing. Accordingly, the Red Cross, at the request of the American Committee, appropriated in October, \$600,000 for the months of November and December, 1917, to make possible the purchase of food at the lower rate. The actual record of prices as later reported during the winter months shows that at least \$500,000 was saved by this advance purchase.

## II. THE NEED FOR RELIEF

"The field of operations includes not only Asia Minor with those portions of Armenia and Syria that are in the Ottoman Empire, but also the large section of Armenia until recently dominated by the Russian Army, as well as the Russian Caucasus, Persia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and por-

tions of Egypt and Macedonia, into which regions Armenians, Syrians and Greeks have fled in large numbers. Of the Armenians, about 1,000,000 were massacred or driven to their death during the summer of 1915, and the remainder within Turkish dominions were deported from their homes into the deserts or other regions where self-support was practically impossible.

"For months innumerable cables relating details of the most terrible suffering and deplorable conditions of the inhabitants of Asia Minor have been received by the Committee. On January 15, 1918, American Consul Smith, at Tiflis, in the Russian Caucasus, cabled that the condition of the refugees there was critical; that the responsibilities were almost entirely on the American Committee; that it was besieged by appeals from all districts, delegations of hungry people often numbering 100, coming long distances, begging for bread, and refusing to leave without food or promises.

## ATTITUDE OF NATIONAL AND STATE COUNCILS OF DEFENSE

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

Mr. Elliott D. Smith, of the Field Division of the Council of Defense, has in his possession the necessary material upon which State Councils of Defense may base their endorsements. He will be glad to have referred to him any difficulties our Committees might experience in obtaining the endorsement of a State Council of Defense.

The National Council of Defense through this Executive Committee has refused to endorse any relief organization which is not directly connected with one or more bureaus of the Government. Officials of the National Council of Defense, however, have personally expressed their sympathy and their desire to cooperate with our Campaign.

## STATE COUNCILS OF DEFENSE

Endorsements are being daily received from State Councils of Defense. Thirty-two of the forty-eight State Councils of Defense have at this writing endorsed the work of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. The action of a few is given below:

CONNECTICUT—"We already have the name of your organization, of course, among those which has been approved in this State, and we congratulate you upon the very remarkable work that you are doing, and the business-like way in which it is handled."

MINNESOTA—"When you are ready to make your campaign in Minnesota I assure you this department will be very glad to assist you in any way."

NEBRASKA—"In view of the information pertaining to the conduct of your campaign for Armenian and Syrian Relief, the Nebraska State Council of Defense extends you its endorsement."

NEW JERSEY—"This will inform you that at a meeting of our Executive Committee on the 23rd instant the endorsement which you desire for the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief in the matter of soliciting funds in the State of New Jersey was gladly extended.

OREGON—Governor Withycombe is Honorary Chairman of our Committee. Some County Councils conduct our campaign.

WASHINGTON—State Council has endorsed movement, accepted State quota and assigned definite quota to every county.

WYOMING—"I most heartily approve of the purposes of your Society, and trust that, when the people of Wyoming, as well as other States, are given an opportunity to contribute, they will do so generously and without stint.

## NOT SHARING, BUT GIVING THEIR ALL

At the foot of Mt. Ararat cluster the Armenians, truly "the people of the Ararat." Nestling under its shoulder is Etchmiadzin, where Gregory the Illuminator received the vision that resulted in the conversion of the Armenian nation, far back in the year 303. On that spot is built the venerable church about which all the history of this ever-persecuted nation centers. There to this day is the seat of the Catholikos, or head of the Armenian Church, whom I had visited the day before I went to Kanakar.

Kanakar was a "sample" village, where about fifty orphans were receiving relief from the American Committee. The place itself contains about three hundred mud houses, of the conventional one-story type. It is entirely agricultural, having no manufactures. Into two hundred and ten of these houses refugees who have made the long journey from devastated Armenia have been taken, to the total number of about one thousand persons, mostly women and children, of course.

If it had not been for the charity of the poor villagers to whom the smitten refugees have turned, the tale of Armenian dead would be nearly double its present total of a million. These people who in their poverty have shared their all are the really great givers toward this cause. No momentary impulse of generosity has led them to contribute what money they could spare; they have given of their homes, their fires, their food, their clothes, and have done so continuously. No honor roll of these givers is kept this side of the pearly gates.

The plan of orphan relief is simple. It is the rule of the Armenian Committee in Eriwan to give no money to men or women, except the latter be seriously ill; work it does provide for a few adults by its wonderful industrial estab-

lishment. For one child out of a family of orphans, it provides a stipend of six roubles monthly, increased at the time of our visit to ten roubles, owing to the depreciation of the rouble, which is now worth less than ten cents.

Each case is investigated by men trained in the mission schools of the American Board, some having been ministers or professors back in Armenia. This relief work, I found, will stand the acid test of the Associated Charities or of the Rockefeller Foundation; for there is system in it all, down to the minutest detail. Nobody need fear that Armenian relief funds are either wasted or given to the undeserving.

W.M. T. ELLIS, Swarthmore, Pa.

## TESTIMONY FROM UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENTS

I believe there is no place in the world where there is greater and more urgent need of relief at the present time than among the surviving Christian population in the Turkish Empire.

I speak from a personal knowledge of the situation, as during the past three years I have been located at Harpoot, and there was brought into close contact with the distress and misery of thousands of homeless and destitute women and children who are absolutely dependent upon charity for their subsistence.

For the past two years systematic relief has been regularly given by the American missionaries and myself to more than 5,000 Armenians in the vicinity of Harpoot alone. Notwithstanding our efforts, it was impossible to reach all and many hundreds were constantly being turned away owing to insufficient funds, while in scarcely any instance was the relief given adequate for their needs. All that anyone ever received was one small piece of bread a day, and in many cases this had to be shared with others. It is to be borne in mind that very few of these people have any way of earning, as owing to the existing conditions there is no work to be obtained.

The majority of these unfortunate women and children are now in such a wretched and helpless condition that they cannot long

survive if help is not received. In fact, many did die last winter for lack of food. Present conditions are more critical than ever.

Arrangements have been made by which funds can continue to be sent there without any risk of loss, and if it can be done in this difficult interior district, there can be little doubt about reaching all other parts of Turkey where relief is being distributed.

Signed,

LESLIE A. DAVIS.

As first Secretary of the American Embassy at Constantinople from before the beginning of the present war until nearly a month after Turkey broke diplomatic relations with the United States, I have had constant and close relations with the distributors of relief among the Armenian, Syrian and Greek refugees in that country. As Ambassador Elkus was the chairman of the Distributing Committee, I was brought officially into close contact with all that work.

There is no question as to the extreme need. The distress among the stricken people is beyond any power of words to describe. The present monthly appropriations of the Committee meet this need to a limited degree. Up to the time the Embassy left Constantinople the Turkish officials were generally friendly to the American members of the Relief Committee. Certain reports from the interior show that they were not only friendly, but helpful in aiding the relief agents in securing supplies and in coming into contact with the distress.

The American missionaries who have had main charge of relief measures, work without pay, and owing to their wide experience, knowledge of the people of the country and their language, use the limited funds at their disposal in the most economical manner. Through soup kitchens, industrial relief and personal supervision the greatest efficiency is secured with the most economical use of funds at their disposal.

The American public can, however, have absolute confidence that every dollar given is wisely and effectively used for the saving of life. The number of children who are in daily need runs into the tens of thousands. No appeal comes with greater force or where the necessity is more urgent than for the refugees in Turkey.

Signed,

C. CORNELL TARLAR.

Translation from the French of a telegram received by the Armenian Benevolent Union. Referred by Mr. Kurkjian and Mr. Karagheusian to our Committee.

Cairo, Egypt, October 30, 1918.

Thousands of sufferers delivered in Syria are reduced to horrible misery. Our resources are insufficient. Try to obtain contributions from the (Armenian) National Union for our relief. Cooperation with the Armenian and Syrian Relief Society is indispensable in order to organize together the work of assistance. We have great need of competent sisters and women devoted to direct our schools and orphanage work. Launch an appeal.

Signed,

ARTIN PASHA.

#### ENDORSEMENTS FROM PUBLIC MEN

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON—"American diplomatic and consular representatives and other American residents recently returned from Western Asia, assure me that many thousands of lives were saved from starvation by the gifts of the American people last winter. They also bring full assurance of the continued effective distribution of relief, and report that the suffering and death from exposure and starvation will inevitably be much greater this winter than last unless the survivors can be helped by further contributions from America. In view of the urgent need, I call again upon the people of the United States to make such further contributions as they feel disposed, in their sympathy and generosity, for the aid of the suffering peoples."

EX-PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. TAFT—"The Armenian Relief has been organized now for some years; it needs more money; it is spending well and effectively; it is helping the poor people of the Near East wherever it can find them. You can be sure that whatever money is given will be properly administered for a people that need it sorely."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT—"With all my heart I wish you Godspeed in the work of relief you have undertaken for the Christians in Western Asia. And particularly do I wish you success in your effort to raise \$30,000,000 for the maintenance of the tens of thousands of Christians and other refugees and sufferers, wherever found in the Caucasus, in Persia, in Palestine, or in the interior of Turkey."

CHARLES E. HUGHES—"Out of the horror and nightmare through which these people have passed comes the gratifying word that we can be of assistance, that our efforts will prove availing, and that we can share with them the bounty which we, as Americans, have enjoyed for years. The work done by this committee has been most unselfish and effective under conditions of great personal sacrifice. May America respond to their appeals."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

November 27, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Buck:

I understand that the Jefferson County War Chest has under consideration an appropriation to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief. I am very glad to give my hearty endorsement to the work which the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has been, and is doing in Western Asia. It has probably been the largest single factor in keeping alive many thousands of deported women and children of the subject races of Turkey, and its present program of relief and rehabilitation is worthy of the fullest possible support.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT LANSING.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, WASHINGTON

December 23, 1918.

My dear Mr. Hinshaw:

I need not tell you how deeply I am interested in the good work which the American Committee for Relief in the Near East is undertaking. In all the horrors of war the hearts of our people have gone out particularly to the peoples for whom the campaign is being waged to raise thirty million dollars for their relief and help in these days of need. The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has done a great work for humanity in days of peril and I feel sure all Americans will feel it a privilege to make contribution to the larger measures of help to these persecuted peoples.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

December 2, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Millar:

The relief work carried on by the American Committee in the Near East on behalf of Armenians, Syrians, Jews, Greeks and Persians in Western Asia, affords a pressing and an appealing opportunity for the American people to support a humanitarian cause. I most heartily endorse your Thirty Million Dollar Campaign, culminating in a drive January 12th to 19th, and I bespeak for you the hearty cooperation and support of all the workers who took part in the United War Work Campaign, and those associated with the Young Men's Christian Association throughout the country.

Very sincerely yours,

J. R. MOTT.

### MOTION PICTURES TO AID CAMPAIGN

An elaborate motion picture has been prepared by the Committee to present in dramatic form the tragedy of Armenia to the American public. Pains have been taken to ensure that this picture shall be an authentic document, and its details are based on the Bryce Report, the speeches of Lord Robert Cecil in England, and many direct and reputable eye-witnesses of the events portrayed. This picture will be shown in your locality early in the year, under the auspices of the Committee, and by urging people to see it you will be directly aiding the campaign.

# American Committee for Relief in the Near East

One Madison Ave., New York

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

James L. Barton.....Chairman

Samuel T. Dutton	William B. Millar
Vice-Chairman	Director-General of Campaign
Charles V. Vickrey....Secretary	Cleveland H. Dodge..Treasurer
George T. Scott	Edwin M. Bulkley
Henry Morgenthau	Alexander J. Hemphill

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Hon. Charles Evans Hughes	William B. Millar
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Woodbury G. Langdon	
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Chairmen of  
Local Committees  
Are Ex-Officio Members  
of the  
National Committee

